

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

2023 YEAR IN REVIEW

PHASES OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

The Larimer County Office of Emergency Management coordinates with partner agencies to better serve and support the community in all phases of disasters while also working to build resiliency in the county. Emergency Management strives to do the most good for those that need it most by working behind the scenes and, meeting with partners throughout the Larimer County region to build programs and services that meet county needs.

In this report are major accomplishments and projects from 2023.



BY THE NUMBERS



1

INCIDENT



46

PARTNER
ENGAGEMENTS



18

COMMUNITY
HUBS



23

COMMUNITY
OUTREACH
EVENTS



24

PREPAREDNESS
PRESENTATIONS
& WORKSHOPS



16

EMERGENCY OPERATIONS
CENTER TRAINING & EXERCISES





PREPAREDNESS

2023

Colorado Emergency Preparedness Assessment (CEPA)

Larimer County completed the Colorado Emergency Preparedness Assessment in 2023. The CEPA is designed to help assess countywide risk and capabilities, identify resource gaps, and understand grant reliance for improving emergency management programs.



Community Evacuation Drill

A community evacuation drill was held in Pinewood Springs on July 8th, 2023 to provide community members an opportunity to practice the process of receiving an evacuation notice and evacuating their homes to safety. This drill was the pilot for an annual evacuation drill planned for different communities in Larimer County each year. The Evacuation Drill in Pinewood Springs was provided in partnership with:

- Larimer Emergency Telephone Authority
- Pinewood Springs Fire Protection District
- American Red Cross
- Larimer Humane Society
- Boulder Office of Disaster Management
- Larimer OEM





PREPAREDNESS

2023

Dare to Prepare Education Program

Larimer OEM started the Dare to Prepare Program in September of 2023. Dare to Prepare is a 7-week educational program focused on sharing essential concepts of basic preparedness, personal resilience, disaster 101, civic engagement, community building, and leadership to residents of Larimer County. The program's comprehensive topics aim to instill confidence and readiness in responding to and recovering from disasters that may impact our region as well as provide community members with skills to build personal resilience.



Larimer Fire Agency Grant Program

Larimer County provides \$30,000 annually through the Larimer Fire Agency Grant Program to local fire departments and districts to assist with training, equipment, grant matching needs and other support for local fire programs. 2023 Recipients include:

- Crystal Lakes Fire Protection District
- Glacier View Fire Protection District
- Glen Haven Volunteer Fire Department
- Livermore Fire Protection District
- Lyons Fire Protection District
- Pinewood Springs Fire Protection District
- Poudre Canyon Fire Protection District



MITIGATION

2023

Community Mitigation Grant Program

Following the 2022 success of the new grant program, the Community Mitigation Grant Program awarded an additional 8 communities funding for hazard mitigation projects in 2023. In total \$55,000 was allocated to fund community mitigation projects in 2023 in Larimer County.

The following communities were awarded grants this year:

- Carriage Hills Property Owners Association
- Crystal Lakes Road and Recreation Association
- Glacier View Community Mitigation Volunteers
- Red Feather Highlands Maintenance Association
- Horsetooth Lake Estates
- Big Elk Meadows Association
- Pinewood Spring Fire Protection District
- Riverrock Estates Homeowners Association



For more information on the Community Mitigation Grant Program visit tinyurl.com/LarimerCMG or scan the QR code



Crystal Lakes Road and Recreation Association Hidden Park Mitigation and Emergency Vehicle Staging Area



Community Mitigation Grant Projects continued



Pinewood Springs Fire Protection
District Community Mitigation Initiative
and Mitigation Demonstration Project



Red Feather Highlands Maintenance
Association Slash Removal Project

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

FEMA approved funding for phase 1 of the Crystal Lakes Fuels Mitigation Project in 2022, which involved an archaeological study of the project area. The actual treatment work (Phase 2) is set to begin in 2024 with a second FEMA grant award.

Colorado Strategic Wildfire Action Program (COSWAP)

The State of Colorado awarded Larimer County a COSWAP grant for a project to perform forest treatments and fuel reduction in the Pole Hill/Waltonia areas in the Big Thompson watershed. Over 150 acres have been treated to date. A project tour was also conducted with attendance from the funding agency, County leadership, Federal partners and local residents. This project is ongoing.

Other Mitigation Updates

- Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DOLA) approved \$150,000 to study local wildfire mitigation-generated woody biomass so Larimer County can develop a strategy of possible solutions to woody biomass challenges.
- Larimer County facilitated the "Wildfire in Northern Colorado" public symposium, with presentations and panel discussions of area leaders and officials from the State of Colorado and Larimer County to share stories and strategies for resilience.
- The Wildfire Partners Program was launched by the Larimer County Sheriff's Office with Larimer OEM as a partner.



RESPONSE & OPERATIONAL COORDINATION

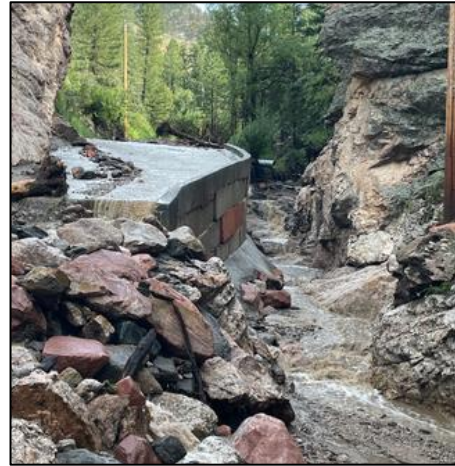
2023

Monsoon Flooding 2023

On August 3, 2023 storms produced heavy rain along the eastern and southern edges of the Cameron Peak Fire burn scar causing flash flooding conditions and multiple infrastructure damages.

- Lower Streamside between CR43 and Black Creek sustained significant damage
- 4 houses along Streamside lost their driveways; one of them had a 4 foot culvert washed away
- CR43 had minor woody debris just downstream from Streamside

On Tuesday, August 8, 2023 the Larimer County Board of County Commissioners ratified an Emergency Declaration for Monsoon Flooding 2023.



Photos
provided by the
Larimer County
Sheriff's Office

Mass Casualty Incident Sandtable Exercise

Larimer OEM conducted a functional sandtable exercise for the Mass Casualty Incident Plan in 2023. The focus of this Mass Casualty Incident sandtable exercise was to visualize moving emergency resources to the scene of a mass casualty incident, stage resources, and respond to hospitals in a simulated environment.



Reunification Exercise

The Larimer County Reunification Plan was exercised in 2023. The exercise practiced the process of activating and operating a Reunification Center that effectively reconnects individuals as quickly as possible following a disaster or incident.



COMPLETION OF THE FINAL 2013 FLOOD RECOVERY PROJECT

County Road 47 Event

Big Elk Meadows Fire Department and Larimer County celebrated the completion of the final 2013 Flood infrastructure project, County Road 47. This road was destroyed during the devastating flood and was the last project to be approved for funding by FEMA.



2013 Flood 10th Anniversary

Larimer County held a Commemoration for the 10th anniversary of the 2013 Flood at the Glen Haven Town Hall. During the 2013 Flood bridges were destroyed, roads disappeared, lives were lost, and public and personal property damage was extensive. The Commemoration honored those whose lives were lost and highlighted the volunteer spirit to rebuild the community after the flood.



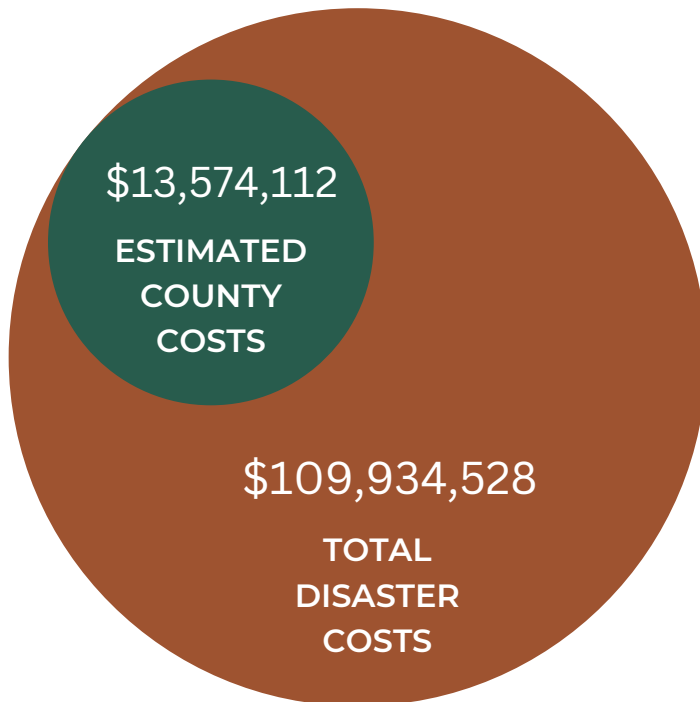


RECOVERY

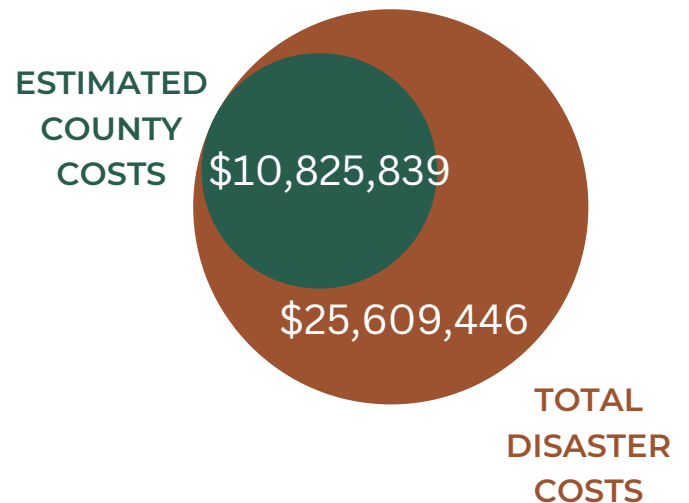
2023

DISASTER FUND SPENT IN 2023 BY LARIMER COUNTY:

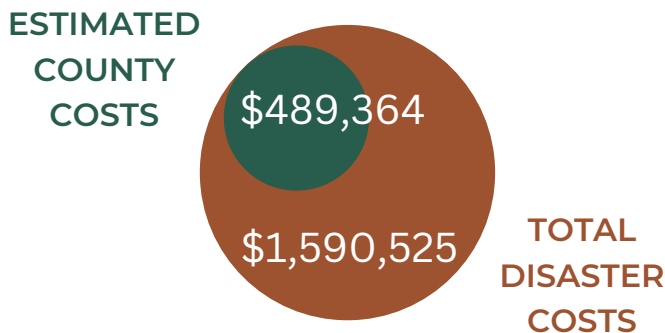
2013 FLOOD



*FIRE & POST-FIRE FLOODING



COVID-19





RESILIENCY

2023

Connecting Our Communities Micro-Grant

The Connecting Our Communities Micro-Grant encourages more social connection and increased community resilience throughout Larimer County. Awardees for the Connecting Our Communities Micro-Grant for 2023 include:

- Lakes At Centerra, Loveland - Block Party
- Livermore Summer Celebration
- Pinewood Springs Property Owners Association
- Poudre Valley Mobile Home Park

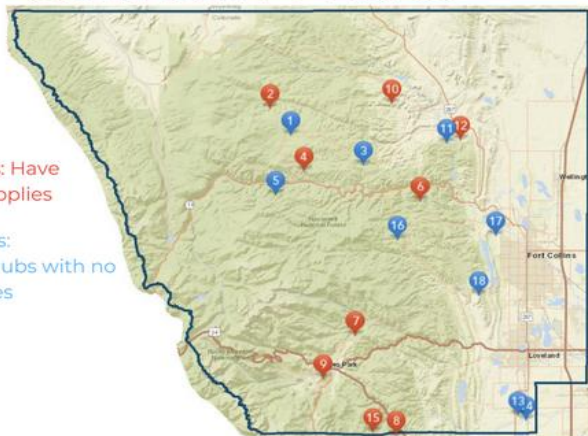


Larimer OEM Community Resilience Survey

In 2023, Larimer OEM conducted the Community Resilience Survey for the second consecutive year to understand the level of countywide community resilience. Below are a few key findings from the survey:

- 73% of respondents feel a sense of belonging in their community and 72% feel valued
- 86% of respondents report working with their local fire department
- 35% of respondents never engage their local officials
- 86% of respondents feel prepared but only 28% have community plans for an emergency
- 50% of respondents do not feel we have services for people with disabilities
- 90% of respondents would like more resources regarding emergency alerts and warnings
- 65% of respondents socialize with their neighbors
- Respondents report that they get their most reliable information about emergencies from Larimer Emergency Telephone Authority (LETA), National Weather Service (NWS), the Larimer County Sheriff's Office, and Larimer OEM.

LARIMER CONNECTS COMMUNITY HUBS



Larimer Connects Community Hubs

Larimer Connects Community Hubs are physical locations that build community resilience through information dissemination and resource sharing. There are now 18 community-led hubs with 11 of those hubs currently storing sheltering supplies in unincorporated Larimer County.



2024 GOALS

Larimer OEM has established the following goals for 2024 to improve overall plans and programs for Larimer County.



Veoci Implementation & Training Program

In 2024, all Emergency Operations Center partners will develop, implement and be trained on Veoci, a virtual Emergency Operations Center software tool, for better coordination and efficient processes.



Formalize Regional EOC

The Larimer Regional Emergency Operations Center (LREOC) is a cooperative effort between Larimer County, the City of Loveland, Loveland Fire Rescue Authority and the Town of Windsor. These agencies will work cooperatively in 2024 to formalize EOC processes and procedures across jurisdictions.



Supply Chain Fuel Plan

Larimer OEM will continue efforts toward a Supply Chain Management Plan in 2024 with a focus on a Fuel Plan to address supply chain needs and priorities during a disaster incident or event that impacts the county and region.



Dare to Prepare / Education Programs

Larimer County OEM will continue to expand its preparedness and education programs in 2024. This will include formalizing the annual schedule for the Dare to Prepare Program to include online and in-person options. It will also include a suite of supplemental preparedness and education options such as the How to Prepare for Everything Workshop, partnerships with youth providers, preparedness classes for Spanish speakers, etc.



Formalize Access & Functional Needs Program

Larimer OEM will continue working with partners to formalize the Access & Functional Needs (AFN) Program in 2024. The AFN Program will include AFN training for emergency management partners to increase awareness of AFN needs in Larimer County, and then identify partnerships and processes to address AFN needs.



ACCOLADES

2023

Cameron Peak Fire Recovery Collaborative Receives the U.S. Forest Service Chief's Award

The Cameron Peak Fire Recovery Collaborative was awarded the U.S. Forest Service Chief's Award for their collective efforts in successful postfire recovery. The Collaborative identified needs, lines of communication, organizational structure, roles and responsibilities, and critical steps to prepare and conduct postfire recovery. The award acknowledged the following partners:

- Coalition for the Poudre River Watershed
- Northern Water
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- City of Greeley
- Left Hand Watershed Center
- Larimer County
- Boulder County
- Grand County



FEMA's Preliminary Damage Assessment Advisory Panel

Larimer OEM Director Lori Hodges, who is part of FEMA's National Advisory Council, has been appointed to lead the Preliminary Damage Assessment Advisory Panel formed by the U.S. Congress (HR3709) to provide recommendations to FEMA for improvements to the preliminary damage assessment process following disasters.



CONTACT US



www.larimer.gov/emergency



@LarimerOEM



@LarimerCountyOEM